

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (withdrawn) A method for positioning a flexible printing plate on a carrier, comprising the steps of:

placing on a table the flexible printing plate for positioning;
determining a position of the printing plate by means of a visual display device; and
depending on the position, moving the printing plate to its final position on the carrier,
wherein the position of the printing plate is sensed in the vicinity of the final position and
the printing plate is moved to its final position depending on the position sensed in the vicinity of
the final position.

2. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the position of the printing plate in the
vicinity of its final position is sensed by a camera.

3. (withdrawn) The method of claim 2, wherein the determined position of the printing
plate and a desired final position of the printing plate are compared in a digital device coupled to
the camera.

4. (withdrawn) The method of claim 3, wherein moving the printing plate to its final
position is controlled subject to the result of the comparison.

5. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein several printing plates are placed on the
table for successive positioning.

6. (withdrawn) The method of claim 2, further comprising the camera zooming-in on the
printing plate.

7. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1, further comprising repeatedly (i) determining the position of the printing plate (ii) comparing the position of the printing plate and a desired final position of the printing plate, and (iii) moving the printing plate to its final position subject to the result of the comparison until the desired final position has been obtained with sufficient accuracy.

8. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein placing the flexible printing plate on the table for positioning and determining the position of the printing plate by means of a visual display device take place simultaneously.

9. (currently amended) A device for positioning a printing plate on a carrier, comprising (i) a table for placing the printing plate for positioning, (ii) support means for supporting the carrier on which the printing plate is positioned, (iii) at least one camera for recording an image of the printing plate, the at least one camera having a field of vision, (iv) a manipulator for transporting the printing plate to the carrier, and (v) a control means which is adapted to control the manipulator and which is connected to the at least one camera to obtain signals coming from the at least one camera, wherein the at least one camera is placed for sensing a position of the printing plate in the vicinity of the support means a desired final position of the printing plate, wherein the at least one camera is located independent from the manipulator, and wherein the control means is adapted to control the transportation of the printing plate, independent of the image displayed by the at least one camera, from the table to the field of vision of the at least one camera.

10. (currently amended) The device of claim 9, ~~further comprising a digital~~ wherein the device ~~[[for]]~~ is adapted to comparing compare the position of the printing plate and ~~[[a]]~~ the desired final position of the printing plate.

11. (currently amended) The device of claim 10, wherein the ~~digital~~ device is adapted to control the position of the printing plate subject to the result of the comparison.

12. (previously presented) The device of claim 9, wherein the device is suitable for successively positioning several printing plates placed on top of each other on the table.

13. (cancelled)

14. (previously presented) The device of claim 9, wherein the control means is adapted to compare the recorded image to an image stored in memory.

15. (previously presented) The device of claim 14, wherein the control means is provided with software for image comparison.

16. (currently amended) The device of claim 9, wherein the device is adapted to cause the at least one camera ~~comprises a zoom means for zooming in to zoom in~~ zoom in on the printing plate in order to increase the accuracy of the positioning of the printing plate.

17. (previously presented) The device of claim 14, wherein the at least one camera is adapted to repeatedly sense the position of the printing plate and wherein the control means is adapted to (i) repeatedly compare the sensed position to the desired final position and to (ii) control the manipulator until the desired final position has been reached with sufficient accuracy.

18. (previously presented) The device of claim 9, wherein the manipulator comprises a displaceable carriage with a pick-up device with which the printing plate can be picked up and transported to the carrier.

19. (withdrawn) The device of claim 9, wherein the manipulator comprises a displaceable pressing element for transporting the printing plate to the carrier by friction.

20. (previously presented) The device of claim 9, wherein the manipulator and the at least one camera are adapted to position and sense the printing plate simultaneously.